Interim Report and Newsletter

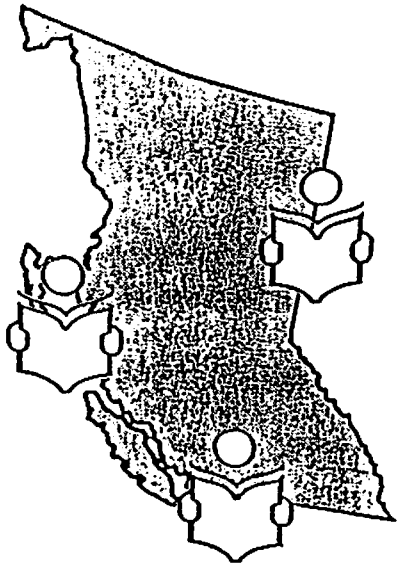
Literacy B.C. Coalition Project

Inside...

Who we are!

Goals of the coalition Project

An Invitation to Shape Future Directions



December, 1989

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- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

Your Name: _____

Address:_____

Postal Code:_____

Organization : _____

Phone number: _____ _____

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What is the Project Literacy B.C. Coalition Project?

Background

Funds for this project were made available through the Secretary of State "Community-Based Groups" literacy initiatives. The National Literacy Secretariat wants to assist provinces to identify literacy needs and to act upon those needs. They approached non-government provincial ABE and literacy organizations to submit proposals for a $35,000 grant.

Other Provinces Forming Coalitions:

- The Saskatchewan Literacy Coalition Project received $35,000 to form a coalition to improve communication among groups interested in literacy, initiate community action, encourage learner involvement, and increase awareness. On September 29th they held their founding meeting and adopted the name Saskatchewan Literacy Network Inc.

- The Alberta Association for Adult Literacy (AAAL) received a $35,000 grant for a literacy community development project. The AAAL is an organization of ABE instructors, literacy co-ordinators and volunteers.

Secretary of State Guidelines

The federal government considers that the delivery of education is a provincial responsibility. National Literacy Secretariat funds may be used to enhance literacy education in these areas:

- improved communication links among interested groups
- learning materials development and distribution
- pilot projects
- advocacy on behalf of community-based literacy
- research
- promotion of public awareness and commitment to literacy

Project Literacy Coalition Project

History

In 1986 Project Literacy B.C. was formed as a committee of the Adult Basic Education Association of B.C.. It was made up of individuals interested in literacy who met in Vancouver monthly to network and raise public awareness. In the following two years other groups began to form in the province using the name Project Literacy followed by their community name. Some of these groups decided to provide literacy programs while others met to share concerns and undertake projects such as the learner conferences. In November, 1989 the Adult Basic Education Association of B.C. brought together eighteen people from all over the province at a consultation called ***Inventing the Future***. This group exchanged information and indicated an interest in forming an independent and truly provincial organization which would be registered under the Societies Act.

At the same time, the Secretary of State's $35,000 became available. The ABEABC was approached to facilitate the development of a provincial literacy coalition, and in September, a project coordinator, Mary Alice Johnson, was hired to

- develop a plan in consultation with existing literacy groups,
- develop criteria for membership,
- design an organizational structure which incorporates local groups,
- clarify the relationship between the coalition and the ABEABC, the Provincial Literacy Advisory Committee, and other provincial groups,
- assist in setting up the Founding Meeting.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENT

WHAT? Founding Meeting of Literacy B.C.

WHEN? Friday and Saturday,
March 9 & 10, 1990

WHERE? Vancouver

WHY? Knowledge and Ideas needed for
Establishing an Effective Coalition

Friday: Networking and developing a vision for literacy in our province

Saturday:

Keynote Speaker Peter Gzowski

Workshops on

- **Planning a five-year Strategy**
- **Advocacy for 1990**
- **Building communication systems**
- **Effective tutor training**
- **Promoting the student voice**
- **Planning Fundraising and public awareness**

Elections and ratification of our Constitution

(Funds to subsidize travel and accommodation will be available)

MORE INFORMATION AND A REGISTRATION FORM WILL FOLLOW

For further information, contact.
Mary Alice Johnson, Coordinator
Project Literacy Coalition Project
P.O. Box 807
Sooke, B.C. V0S 1N0
Phone: 642-3671, Fax #: 642-7155

Project Results to date:

Information learned in consultation with community groups

What do you need?

- More easily accessible programs
- Student contact centres
- Evening programs for working people
- Day care for parents
- Better advertising of existing programs
- Funds for tutor programs
- Expertise in tutor training
- Information about starting up Project Literacy groups
- Advocacy for literacy delivery based on community needs.

What should be the role of a provincial literacy coalition?

- Unite the community literacy groups, adult learners, and others.
- Be the umbrella for advocacy and networking.
- Provide leadership and support for advocacy efforts.
- Distribute information.
- Encourage networking of learners.
- Provide professional development in the form of conferences and workshops
- Don't build another bureaucracy but rather see that funds be available for program delivery.
- Encourage quality but don't set up standards that exclude programs.

Who should be members of the coalition?

- Both individuals and groups.
- Areas outside the lower mainland must have good repesentation.

How should the coalition be structured?

- Create an organization which is democratic, inclusive and representative of the whole province.

What relationship should the coalition build with other organizations?

- The Adult Basic Education Association of B.C. is our closest ally. The two groups should have a close and cooperative relationship.
- Don't duplicate services.
- Negotiate with the ABEABC for input into the direction of the Adult Literacy Contact Centre.
- Seek representation on the Movement for Canadian Literacy Board and Provincial Literacy Advisory Committee

Setting up an Interim Board

On September 29th the project coordinator called together an Interim Board made up of representatives of each of the seven existing Project Literacy groups, an ABEABC representative, and a member of the Provincial Literacy Advisory Committee . That group has met three times, first setting up committees and then drawing up a constitution, registering as a society, and is now making plans for a Founding Meeting on March 9th and 10th.

Immediate Goals of the Coalition

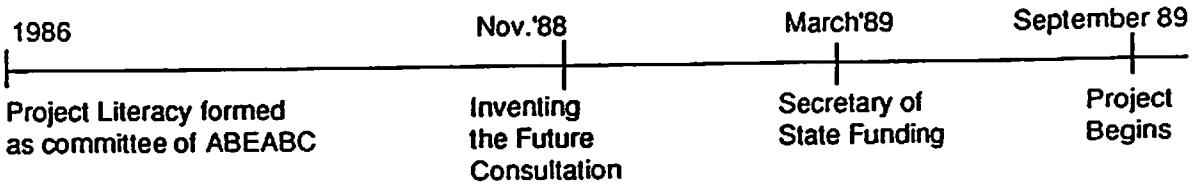
The Interim Board has a vision of the coalition as a truly provincial organization which unites those individuals and groups that have an interest in literacy in B.C. The immediate goals of the organization ar

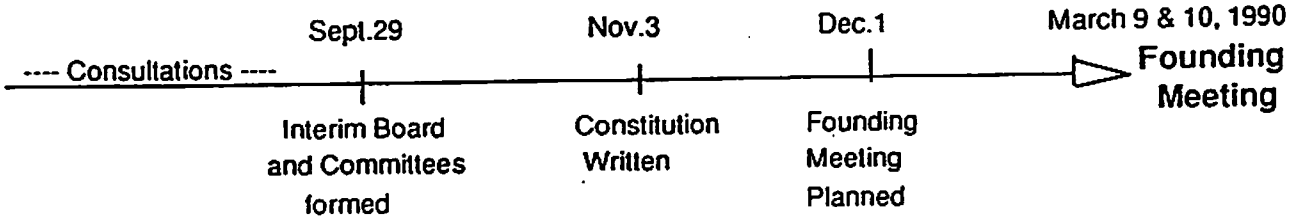
- to bring together individuals from all over the province, representing many interest groups to decide how to achieve the goals of the society

- to develop a strategy for additional funding for the society

- to develop a strategic long-term plan for the coalition.

Time line of Coalition Project





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